



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4<sup>th</sup> District

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For Immediate Release

## **MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE ON PARK EAST LANDS**

### *Milwaukee County Board Unveils PERC, a Promise to our Community*

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Supervisors will unveil their plan today for vacant, county-owned land in the park east corridor. The initiative put forward is called P.E.R.C.-this stands for the Park East Redevelopment Compact. This compact addresses the concerns of local community groups relating to the use of public dollars in the project.

"Milwaukee County government has long promoted economic development in our community. The county has required prevailing wages on construction projects at the Milwaukee County Research Park, Miller Park, Midwest Airlines Center, Mitchell International Airport and on all HUD contracts-there is no reason why the County Board would require anything less on our Park East lands," said County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. the Lead Sponsor of the PERC Legislation.

"There is a great need for more targeted economic development initiatives in our neighborhoods. This is an exciting time for Milwaukee County and I am pleased to see that our entire community will benefit from these publicly supported developments," said County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Co-Sponsor of the PERC Legislation.

Some of the most notable highlights of the PERC are the use of competitive development agreements, disadvantaged business enterprises, and other such issues as prevailing wage and affordable housing initiatives.

The Reverend Joe Jackson, Pastor of Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church and President of MICAH said, "As a pastor, I have a moral obligation to make sure that people in our community who have not historically reaped the benefits from economic development get the equity they deserve. This move is long overdue."

The Press Conference will take place on Wednesday November 10, 2004 at 10:00am in room 201, the lobby of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

Here are some additional comments made about our plan.

"Our community lags behind the rest of the Midwest in the development of good-paying jobs. This resolution is a major step towards an economic development policy that will help Milwaukee prosper." John Goldstein, President of the Milwaukee County Labor Council

"The Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council appreciates the Milwaukee County Board's leadership in developing the PERC resolution. The affordable housing component of this resolution is a great first step - it has the potential, with the necessary details, to both set policy precedent and ensure integrated housing choices in this community." Kori Schneider, Manager, Community and Economic Development Program Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

"Redevelopment should provide benefits for all members of the community; PERC ensures that will happen. We are excited to see our elected leaders undertake an aggressive effort to ensure that redevelopment benefits everyone in our community. The use of public resources should always reflect careful efforts to create sustainable community benefits. The PERC is our best hope of seeing those efforts come to fruition." Kathleen Mulligan-Hansel, Ph.D. Institute for Wisconsin's Future and Co-Chair of the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition.

"This will open the doors for fair competition for the work. And, when the competition is fair union contractors have a better chance to win the work. This opens the doors for training, apprenticeship and high wage job opportunities for people who live in the community." Lyle A. Balistreri, President of the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council

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